

**Amendment #2
To RFP-NIH-NIAID-DAIT-03-31**

“Immune Epitope Database and Analysis Program”

Amendment to Solicitation No.: NIH-NIAID-DAIT-03-31

Amendment No. 2

Amendment Date: November 6, 2002

RFP Issue Date: August 29, 2002

Issued By: Lawrence M. Butler
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Contract Management Branch
7700-B Rockledge Drive
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Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7612

Point of Contact: Suzanne L. Dawkins, Contract Specialist

Name and Address of Offerors: To All Offerors

The above numbered solicitation is hereby amended as follows:

Business Proposal Instructions, Paragraph 12 is added as follows:

(12) Certification of Visa's for Non-U.S. Citizens

Proposed personnel under research projects are not required to be citizens of the United States. However, if non-U.S. citizens are proposed under a contract to be performed in the United States and its territories, then the offeror must indicate in the proposal that these individuals have the required visa.

Below are questions and answers concerning the RFP:

1. Does NIAID have a preferred RDBMS?

The Offeror shall propose the relational database management system, along with the rationale for use of this system as indicated in the SOW, Section A, and Section E.1.

2. The IP stance of NIAID is unclear. The Introduction says all data, analysis tools and algorithms will be made freely available, but the patent note states that the government reserves only governmental right to use. Is all new software developed in this effort to be open source or merely made available for free use on the NIAID server by the scientific community?

Software developed by the Contractor under the RFP (including source codes) is to be made freely available to the research community, as stated in Section A of the SOW and the second paragraph of Note 3. The term “open source” is not used in the RFP, and NIAID does not expect the software to be made freely available to sources outside the research community.

3. **Page 4 says source code shall be made freely available to the research community. Does this include commercial as well as non-profit, academic and governmental researchers?**

It is not envisioned that all researchers will be interested in the source codes, but the NIAID would not want to deny them to those who are interested. At a minimum, the NIAID intends to make source codes freely available to the academic research community. Please see Note 3, paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. **We have a concern regarding tools and algorithms developed by other members of the user community who are not part of this project. In some cases, other researchers might be willing to contribute an executable to be run on the project (contractor-managed) server; in other cases, they might not. However, if we allow users to use CPU-intensive tools running on the project server, this impacts the sizing of the hardware. Does NIAID prefer that the contractor host the tools on the project server, or merely provide external links so that users may transfer to a machine hosted by the tool developer, on a machine not part of the IEDA project?**

The Offeror needs to make this decision with the goal of providing a robust and user-friendly system. Please see Sections B.1, B.2, and B.3 of the SOW.

5. **When after the award date shall the prototype database be delivered?**

18 months—see Section A.5 of SOW (final implementation plan includes a prototype database – all features of Section A.1-3 of the SOW).

6. **The timing of the preparation of the transition plan is unclear with respect to the option years. Will the announcement of the award of option years be made sufficiently early so that the transition plan need only be prepared once?**

Yes.

7. **May we assume that this database will contain only unclassified information and that any classification reviews will not be the responsibility of the contractor?**

No, guidelines for classification status of information regarding category A-C pathogens are not defined yet. Prepare for either possibility.

8. **If a commercial non-relational DBMS is felt to be more efficient for storing some data, if it can be interfaced such that the user interface is seamless, and if it can be shown to be as robust and maintainable as a relational DBMS, will NIAID entertain its proposal?**

No. Please adhere to the SOW, specifically Section A and Section E.1.

9. **On page 8, Section E.2a, NIAID requires a software strategy that makes the data portable and usable across platforms. May we assume that this does not mean that the entire DBMS must be portable, but only that retrievals may easily be exported in formats usable on all common platforms?**

Section E.2a. of the SOW specifies that all the data shall be portable. The DBMS must be scalable, not portable.

10. **If there is functional information on an antigen, but the antigen is not defined at the epitope level, does NIAID wish this information be included in the database?**

Yes, if appropriate. This should be decided and justified by Offeror.

11. Please give us an example of what NIAID means by Query by Example.

This information is publicly available using web searches.

12. Do all hardware and software costs need to be identified in the proposal, or may these cost determinations be part of the plan provided in month 3?

All costs shall be identified in the initial proposal.

13. Shall hardware and software licenses be Government Furnished Equipment?

Please refer to the SOW, Reporting Requirements, under Other Deliverables, Items B and D.

14. Who shall maintain the server hardware to be resident at NIAID, the Contractor or NIAID?

If any equipment will reside in NIAID, the Office of Technology Information Systems (OTIS) will maintain the hardware. The Contractor shall consult with OTIS before obtaining any hardware.

15. Who shall be responsible for the backups and software maintenance for the backup server resident at NIAID, the contractor or NIAID?

The Office of Technology Information Systems (OTIS), NIAID.

16. The requirement to answer all requests for technical assistance within 24 hours will require extra help desk coverage on weekends and U.S. holidays and thus extra cost. Might the requirement be adjusted to allow for response within 8 East coast-U.S. business hours?

The Contractor shall follow Section E.15 of the SOW.

17. For cost estimation purposes, will the annual workshop and SAC meetings be held at a Bethesda hotel or on the NIAID site?

For cost estimating purposes, NIAID will not be providing a site. Please base your estimate on costs described in Note 7.

18. For cost estimation purposes, how many scientists shall we assume NIAID will appoint to the Scientific Advisory Committee? For costing purposes, shall we assume none are from Bethesda, and are uniformly distributed across the U.S. but none from foreign institutions?

See Section C.1 of the SOW. After award, the Contractor will propose the composition and size of the SAC and obtain Project Officer approval before contracting the candidates. The names of potential candidates shall NOT be included in the proposal (see Amendment 1 to this RFP).

19. Does the Rights in Data – Special Works clause (FAR 52.227-17) prohibit the Contractor from publishing without the prior written permission of the Contracting Officer?

FAR 52.227-17 addresses an issue of disclosure. The Government is asking the Contractor to disclose their intent to **copyright** materials prior to their actions. We do not prohibit the right to copyright (including publications) but we do require prior written permission by the Contracting Officer.

Research publications are permitted and encouraged. However, NIAID requires that the material to be published be submitted to the NIAID Project Officer for review at least 30 days prior to publication.

20. Does the RFP require code validation or certification?

Validation.

Below is our source list for this Request for Proposal:

Epimmune, Inc.
5820 Nancy Ridge Drive
Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92121

University of Texas, Southwestern
Medical Center
Department of Pathology
5323 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235-9072

Institute for Systems Biology
422 Roosevelt Way NE
Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98105

Institute for Systems Biology
Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98105

Accelrys
Box 5375
Princeton, NJ 08543

SRI International
1100 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 2800
Arlington, VA 22209

Santa Fe Institute
1399 Hyde Park Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501

University of California at San Diego
and San Diego Supercomputing Center
Department of Bioengineering
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0412

EpiVax, Inc.
292 Morris Ave.
Providence, RI 02906

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
940 Stanton L. Young, Room 1055
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Brown University
Box G/8-426
Providence, RI 02912

LaJolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology
10355 Science Center Road
San Diego, CA 92121

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer
Center
1515 Holcombe Blvd., Box 37
Houston, TX 77030

ForScience, Inc.
259 Hallock Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Daedalus Software, Inc.
124 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 200 N
Cambridge, MA 02138

Focus Consulting, Inc.
620 Hungerford Drive, Suite 29
Rockville, MD 20850

IBM
6710 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

- Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the RFP document NIH-NIAID-DAIT-03-31 remain unchanged and in full force and effect.
- The hour and date specified for receipt of offers REMAINS: **November 26, 2002, 4:00 PM, EST**
- Offerors must acknowledge receipt of this Amendment #2 on each copy of the proposal submitted

Failure to receive your acknowledgment of this amendment may result in the rejection of your offer.